

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT**

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



486207

**I. HEADING**

**Date:** November 6, 2001  
**Subject:** J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois  
**From:** Brad Benning, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 5  
**To:** C. Stanton, U.S. EPA, OSWER, Washington, D.C. .... FAX 703/603-9133  
R. Karl, U.S. EPA, Chief, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
B. Bolen, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS2, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
L. Nachowicz, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS3, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
W. Messinger, U.S. EPA, Chief, ESS, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
J. Maritote, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
G. Narsete, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176  
S. Kaehler, CDOE, Chicago, IL.....FAX 312/744-6451

**POLREP No:** 2

**II. BACKGROUND**

**Site No:** B5Y2  
**Response Authority:** CERCLA (PRP)  
**CERCLIS No:** ILN000508169  
**NPL Status:** No  
**State Notification:** ILL. EPA  
**Status of Action Memorandum:** Signed 7/16/01  
**Enforcement Status:** AOC signed 8/3/01  
**Start Date:** April 5, 2001  
**Completion Date:** N/A

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Incident Category**

CERCLA PRP lead removal action

**B. Site Description**

The J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site is a former steel making operation located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site, located in an industrial area at 3151 South California Avenue, has been abandoned since 1997. The site is bordered to the north by the Chicago Illinois Western Railroad tracks, to the east by a scrap metal operation, to the south by the Chicago Sanitary District Canal (the Canal), and to the west by California Avenue. The site consists of a large industrial building in good condition, divided into three sections. Section one, the northern most section of the building is approximately 630 feet by 98 feet, section two is 760 feet by 60 feet, and section three, adjacent to the Canal, is 530 feet by 72 feet. Scattered throughout the facility are large pieces of steel making equipment, including a furnace, baghouses, a cooling tower, and numerous large transformers. Near the furnace in section three, a series of elevated platforms and walkways

remain intact. Large quantities of various industrial materials used in the steel making process, including silica, insulating Tundish spray, and magnesium oxide remain in the building.

### **C. Description of Threat**

Numerous drums, fuel storage containers, paint cans, poly tanks, and miscellaneous small containers are scattered throughout the site. The contents of these drums and containers include oils, grease, acids, paints, cleaning fluids and other unknown materials. Several pits containing unknown liquids are located in sections two and three. In addition, large piles of slag, dust, and flyash are present the building, mainly in section three. Asbestos and radioactive material is also present on-site. Site access is not completely restricted and previous trespassers on-site have removed the majority of the electrical equipment and copper wiring.

## **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

### **A. Response Activities to Date (August 3, 2001 thru November 2, 2001)**

1. AOC was signed with RPs, M.S. Kaplan and MWRD.
2. PRPs finalize agreement with Burns & McDonnell (B&M) to implement investigation activities.
3. Work Plan and Health & Safety Plan approved October 16, 2001.
4. Week of 10/15/01, new sorbent boom placed in the Sanitary & Ship canal.
5. Week of 10/22/01, subcontractor Radiometrics, Inc., removed radioactive sources from the four billet formers and transported them to Ronan Engineering for proper disposal. The ten wear indicator needles were wrapped in lead shielding and left onsite pending disposal by B&M. Soil borings were completed by CS Drilling to investigate subsurface conditions, which identified oil contaminated soils in the southeast section of the building. Ground surfaces, pits, and sumps were investigated for possible contamination, along with any damaged dry goods that were left at the facility. The interior and exterior baghouse units were inspected, and both units were found to contain large amounts material.
6. Week of 10/29/01, subcontractor SET Environmental, Inc., began container field characterization activities, which included sampling and disposal profiling. Currently 14 disposal groups have been identified. Additional boom was added to the canal bank.

### **B. Next Steps**

1. Continue work on container characterization as needed.
2. Collect and analyze sample of pipe insulation for asbestos.
3. Conduct test pit excavations pending receipt of Chicago DOT permit.
4. Provide summary of field investigation activities, and proposed removal plan.
5. Continue PRP oversight to ensure the proper activities are occurring on-site.

### **C. Key Issues**

None

**V. ESTIMATED COSTS (through April 19, 2001)**

	<u>Used</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Percent Remaining</u>
ERRS	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000	15%
START	\$ 6,500	\$ 25,000	73 %
U.S. EPA	\$ 28,200	\$ 10,500	63%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on amounts known by the OSC at the time of the preparation of this report. The cost accounting data shown in this report does not necessarily represent the exact monetary figures which the U.S. Government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES**

DISPOSITION OF WASTES 31" AND CALIFORNIA CHICAGO, ILLINOIS			
Wastestream / Backfillium	Quantity	Treatment	Disposal Facility
Artillery Rounds N/A	258Each	None	